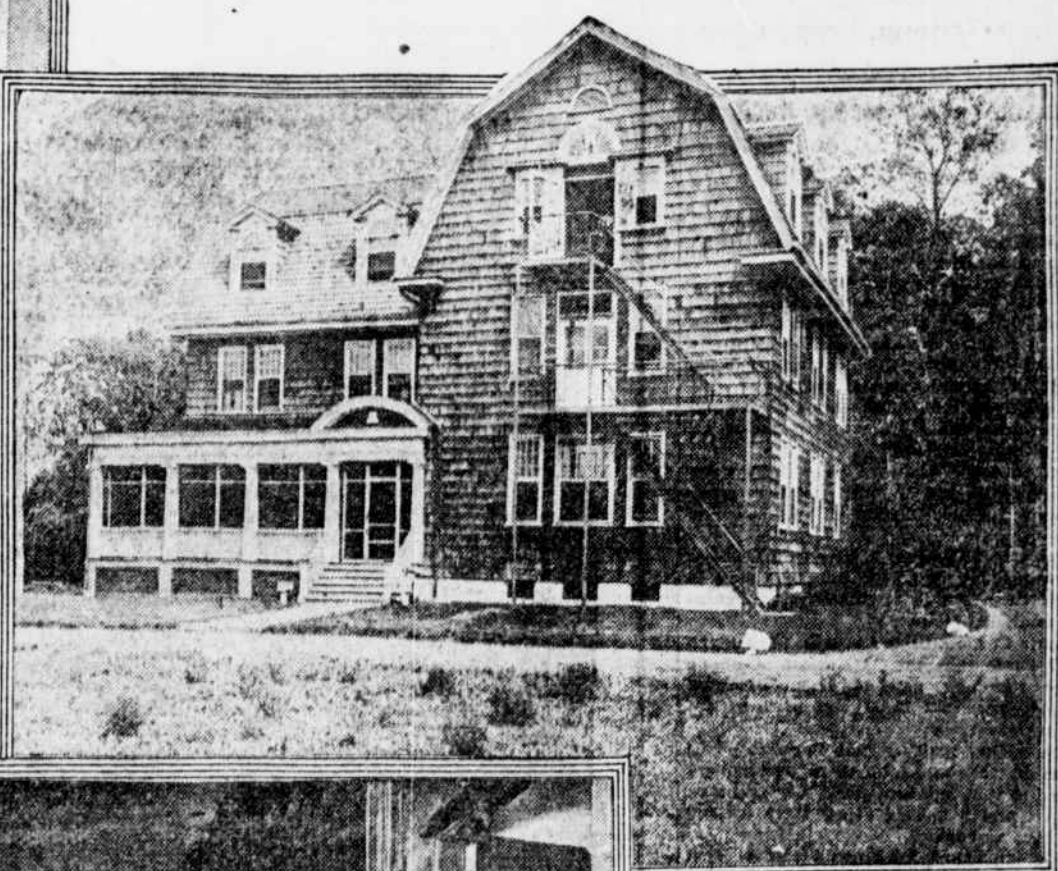


Freedom of Intercourse Among Defectives Is the Despair of Eugenists



SOME OF THE "BOYS" OF A COLONY AT LETCHWORTH VILLAGE FOR DEFECTIVES.



A MODERN ALMSHOUSE CONDUCTED BY NEW YORK CITY.

Many a Rapidly Spreading "Dynasty," Whose Members Clog the Asylums and Almshouses, Should Have Been Checked by Segregation and Sterilization, Reformers Say.

IN the course of the last year a great deal of thought has been expended upon the problem of the feeble-minded and insane in this country. As a result of investigation and discussion much fresh light has been thrown upon the causes of these defects and the need for segregation of those capable of reproducing their kind. Widespread interest has been aroused in the problems involved, one of which is the utter impossibility of segregating the scores upon scores of thousands who ought to be prevented from adding to the numbers of mankind.

Fifteen thousand public school children of New York City belong in institutions for the feeble-minded. This, according to a dispatch from Bethlehem, Penn., is what Dr. Henry H. Goddard, director of research in the Vineland, N. J., training school, asserted at the conference of the American Academy of Medicine at Lehigh University on the conservation of children. "To contemplate these figures is to realize the enormity of the danger which faces society," he commented. Then he added that out of every hundred school children three are feeble-minded and two of these have inherited their feeble-mindedness and will transmit it.

A week ago at a conference at the Brooklyn Institute Dr. Herbert C. Allen, of that borough, said that the New York State institutions were attempting to care for three thousand more cases of insanity than they were supposed to accommodate, and that in order to do this they were obliged to release for longer or shorter periods so-called harmless insane persons in order that the maniacs might be properly controlled. These releases from custody, he declared, in reality menaced society because of the frequency with which they resulted in the birth of children. A large percentage of these children were likely ultimately to become insane or burdens upon the public purse for other reasons. The number of children born as the result of such home visits in this state he estimated to be one thousand a year. He produced charts of Brooklyn families which had been investigated in support of this assertion.

One of these charts was that of a family of an insane man who had been committed to Kings Park, but who had been permitted to visit home in 1910 and 1911, although diagnosed as "incurably insane." Of his eight living children, not one is normal physically and five are subnormal mentally. Five of them are in the city institutions, and a sixth, born as a result of a visit to his home on parole, was hydrocephalic and died at the age of five months in a local institution. In another case of the seven children of an inmate of Kings Park, four are being cared for in city institutions and three have been born since he was first committed, in 1904. Since that year he has been at home at least three times. One insane woman has had four children since she was first sent to the Kings County Insane Hospital, in 1900, all being illegitimate. The woman is not now in the hospital. She and her family are being supported by charitable organizations. She is only thirty-nine years old and may have other children.

A BIG WAITING LIST.

New York State, with its wealth and population, is said to have a larger equipment for the custodial care of the insane and feeble-minded than any other state, yet its institutions are not now able to accommodate those who should be domiciled in them. It is stated that there are almost two thousand epileptics and feeble-minded persons on the waiting list of custodial institutions. The number of feeble-minded women of child-bearing age who should be in the institution at Newark, N. Y., where prison of this description are called for, in addition to those already there, is approximately four hundred. There is no room for them. The custodial accommodations of New Jersey, a state which also ranks high in its care of the epileptic and the feeble-minded, are insufficient.

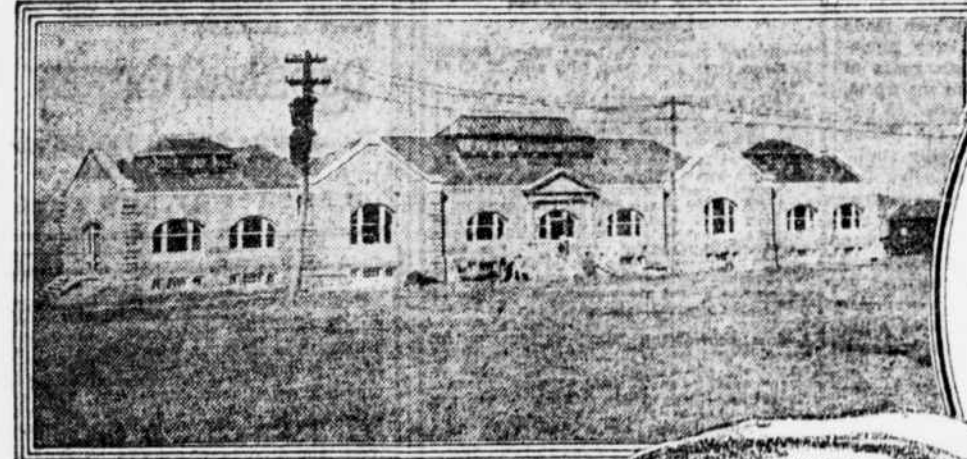
One estimate of the number of feeble-minded of pronounced type in the United States is 20,000, of whom only 15,000 are properly segregated. Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York have special institutions for the feeble-minded. Seventeen other states have made a beginning in the direction of segregation.

Where are those who are not segregated? Perhaps some one asks. Many are in almshouses and many more living at home. The fact that sixteen thousand feeble-minded in the United States are in almshouses does not necessarily mean that they are segregated. They cannot be kept in almshouses arbitrarily, nor does the fact that they are there mean that they are to be classed among the aged and infirm, and therefore no longer social menaces. Although in almshouses they are dangerous.

"When the social workers want to stir up the animals let them go to the almshouses," Dr. Goddard, when he made this remark to a representative of The Tribune, did not mean to suggest that the inmates of almshouses were animals. It followed a description of a visit he had just made to a Pennsylvania almshouse to test the inmates for evidences of feeble-mindedness. This is what he preceded: "The menace of the feeble-minded and the imbecile is illustrated in the case of an almshouse in Chester, Penn., where I made tests. There were eight women in this institution, all of whom would become

mothers within six weeks. They were all imbeciles. They had gone there to be cared for until their children were born, and then they would go out, to come back the following year in the same condition. "Stirring up the animals" was his way of saying that if social workers—and he probably would have been willing to extend his comment to include society—wished to strike at the root of a large amount of criminality and pauperism they could do so in a highly practical manner by going at the almshouse problem, a problem which is as wide as the continent.

"Over the Hills to the Poor House" is an appealing picture of an old mother, abandoned by her children and obliged to leave the house of a lifetime, who journeys to the last resort of the incapacitated. As a matter of fact, this picture does not convey the full significance of that journey.



THE NEW INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR THE MENTALLY DEFICIENT ON RANDALL'S ISLAND.

ney. To the sensitive old woman the pain of the realization of the presence of ingratitude where there ought to be a contrary sentiment and the sense of failure in the strife of life are, perhaps, the most bitter of burdens. They are augmented by the atmosphere of the almshouse itself, for, while it ought to be a useful refuge for the aged and infirm, in reality it is a catchall for incapacity, regardless of the reasons for their disability. It is not an institution solely for those for whose benefit it is supposed to exist. There is not an almshouse in the country which does not at some time house one or more persons of each class of unfortunate. Less than two-thirds of the inmates of New York County almshouses are to be classified as aged and infirm. The remainder are persons unable to earn a living owing to various physical or mental disabilities. One-tenth of all the inmates are feeble-minded and many are insane also.

The almshouse in this country is one of the most serious brakes upon the efforts of the eugenist, because of the fact that it is permitted to serve as a refuge for all classes in time of economic stress. It has become an asylum for the insane, the blind and the deaf, a children's home, a retreat for the feeble-minded, a maternity hospital, a cancer hospital and a tuberculosis sanatorium, if one may so describe an institution where, in many cases, the afflicted inmates are without adequate hygienic facilities or medical care or even the supervision of a properly qualified nurse. For lack of a sufficient number of specialized institutions the "poorhouse" has been made to fulfill the functions of all. It is as a retreat for the feeble-minded and a maternity hospital, however, that it becomes the most serious menace to the country.

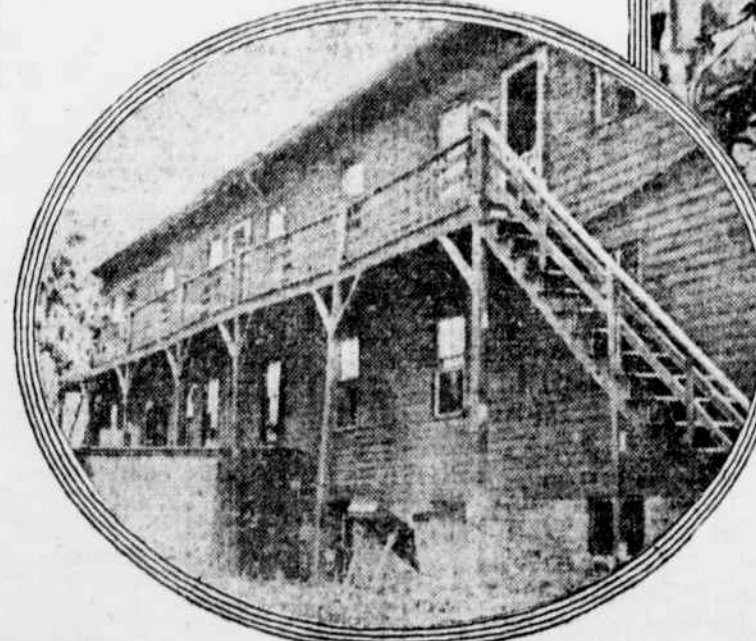
The feeble-minded man or woman, full grown physically, but a child mentally, has little or no control over his or her appetites. They not only multiply more rapidly than normally-minded persons, but a very considerable proportion of their progeny, besides being feeble-minded, are also illegitimate, a fact which, in itself, serves to add to the population of the almshouses, for their lack of social standing works against their economic progress.

FOUNDING AN IMBECILE FAMILY.

This is the dreary round: In a given neighborhood lives an attractive-looking girl who is described by those acquainted with her as a "little off." She is good hearted, but deficient in mental control. She is employed as a servant in a respectable family, but when it is discovered that she is about to become a mother through a misstep due to her lack of mental capacity for control she is discharged. Without a home, she is admitted to the almshouse. Here her babe, a girl, is born, and she remains for a number of months, assisting in the work of the institution until she secures employment elsewhere. Unfortunately, this particular almshouse is like not a few of those to be found in the United States, without means for proper separation of the sexes, and when she leaves she is doomed to return again in the course of a few months. The father of her second child is a vagrant, who took shelter in the almshouse for the winter and had disappeared.

The second baby—perhaps, fortunately, a boy—would say, judging from its ancestry, dies soon after its birth. The first born grows up, and brothers and sisters are born from time to time, for the mother is constantly at the mercy of her uncontrolled impulses. Neither the girl—who is

Types of inmates of a New York County Almshouse. Drawn from a photograph.



A TYPE OF ALMSHOUSE FOUND IN SOME PARTS OF NEW YORK STATE. This is the women's building of the Tompkins County Almshouse.

attractive in appearance, like her mother—nor her brothers and sisters who have survived infancy are "bright." Indeed, they are to be classed as feeble-minded. All of them have been inmates of the almshouse at one time or another. The community endeavors to take care of the family by "putting out" the children, but

this does not prove to be successful, from the point of view of the community, for the children are not able to resist their environment and inheritance and are a constant source of care to those with whom they are living. One after another as they grow up they become victims of their propensities and supply the community with



SOME OF THE INMATES AND THE LIVING QUARTERS OF A COUNTY ALMSHOUSE IN THIS STATE.

and in view. An investigation in the enlightened State of Iowa revealed the fact that there were several almshouses without provision for separation of the sexes. What is the cost to the state of such families as the typical one described? It has been figured out that the famous Jukes family has entailed upon the public purse the expenditure of an amount greater than that required for the building and maintenance up to the present time of the Newark, N. Y., institution for feeble-minded women of child-bearing age, where approximately eight hundred are accommodated. In Indiana in the cases of five women whose histories were searched out, it was found there had been nineteen children, of whom fifteen were in institutions. The time they had spent there represented a total of 136 years, the estimated cost of which to the state in money alone was

ords was "three or four, and possibly five." Others received outdoor relief. The report on the family made by Ernest P. Bicknell, at a session of the National Conference of Charities and Correction read like this:

"One of the oldest of the family now living (1856) was born in 1823. He is feeble-minded. His first wife was feeble-minded. Four children were the result of this marriage—two sons and two daughters. All were feeble-minded. The first wife died, and in his old age this man married a second time, his second choice being also a feeble-minded woman. Four children resulted from the second marriage, two of them feeble-minded, but no record of the mental condition of the other two has been found."

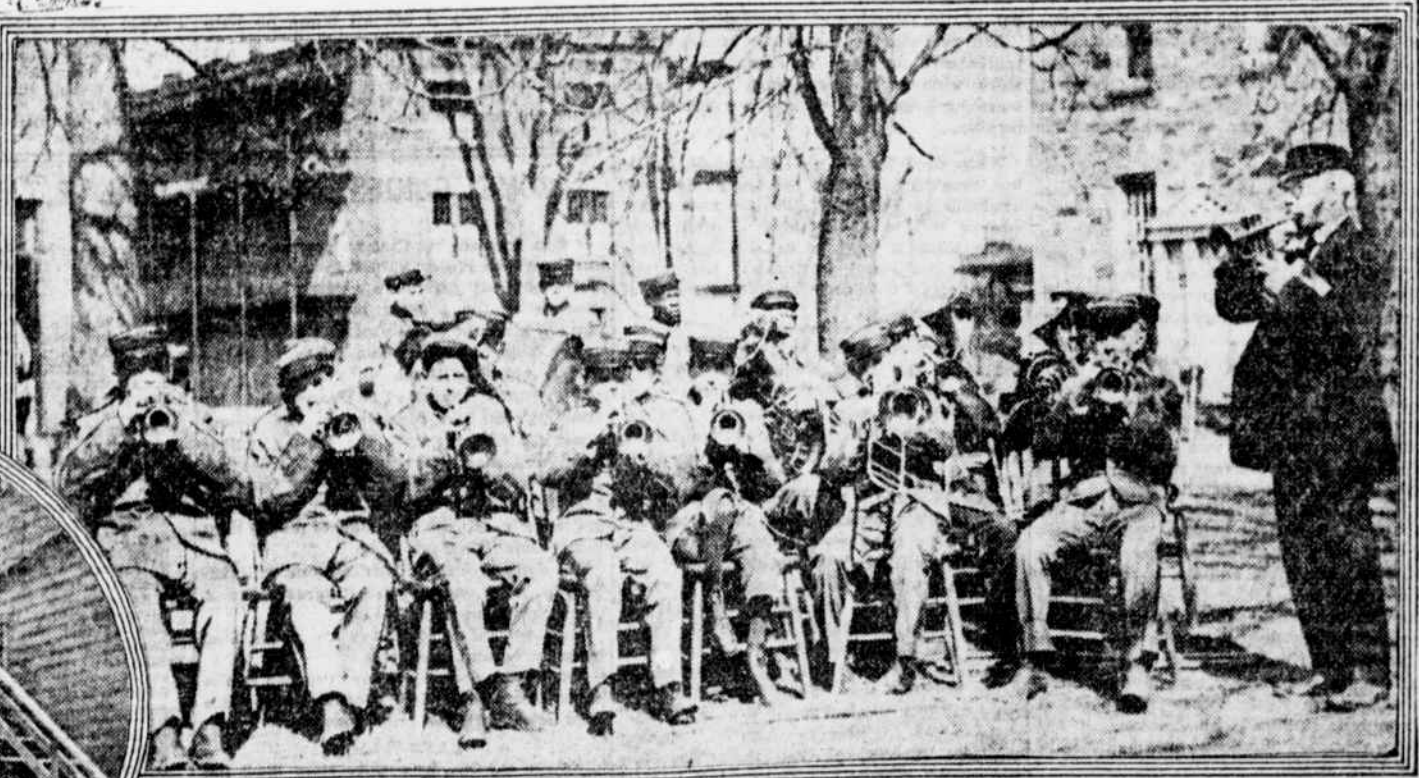
To sum up the record in the words of Mr. Bicknell: "So far as known, every member of the family has been feeble-minded. At least ten members have been illegitimate. The history of this family is not closed. In truth, its productive power for evil is probably greater to-day than at any time in its history."

The illustrations of the cost in defective humanity and to society in efficiency and money of lack of proper control of hereditary epilepsy, insanity and feeble-mindedness are so numerous that it would be fatiguing to attempt to present them. What are the remedies proposed? As a means of ultimately reducing the number, an authority has urged segregation and sterilization in cases where the patient desires to keep the afflicted child at home, or the adult victim is capable of performing work of sufficient value to society to support himself, he being otherwise harmless. A similar method of lowering the number of the insane was suggested at the Brooklyn conference by Mr. Fogarty, the Deputy Commissioner of Charities in that borough. The dimensions of Letchworth Village are to be increased, and the last Legislature laid a sterilization bill at the door of Governor Dix. Already spending more than \$3,000,000 a year, apparently, it will be necessary to spend much more before this state shall have fulfilled the requirements of the case.

VENTILATING LOWER BERTHS

Suggestions for Comfort of Sleeping Car Passengers.

It will soon be time to remove storm windows from sleeping cars, says "The Railway and Engineering News," and thereby enable the occupants of most of the cars so equipped to get a whiff of fresh air. In order to retard the escape of heat from coaches and sleeping cars those of modern construction have double windows, and, on numerous roads, particularly in the West, storm windows are added during the winter season. The ordinary windows which do service the year around can, of course, be opened to admit pure air, if the occupants of the berths feel the need of it; and after the berths are made up they usually do feel the need of it, for the ventilation of the lower berths by regulating the transom openings at the



THE BAND OF MENTALLY DEFICIENT BOYS AT THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL FOR DEFICIENT CHILDREN, ON RANDALL'S ISLAND. There are 1,100 mentally deficient boys and girls cared for here by the Department of Charities.

prostitutes and criminals. The mother-crews had been put in custody fifteen years ago the state would have expended only \$7,500 upon them up to the present time and there would have been a great saving in suffering and defectiveness.

One marked illustration of the cost of feeble-mindedness to the community is found in the records of an Indiana county found in poorhouses which have been preserved for more than thirty-five years. Through this more period one family was represented among the inmates, thirty members being mentioned on the records. Most of them were there for periods of several years and some of them lived at the county's expense almost continuously. The average number of members of the family to be found there at any one time in the period of the re-

top of the car is just about as efficient as the ventilation of a jug by pulling the cork.

The incubation temperatures which often result from inattention to the control of the heating apparatus throughout the night also render a little current of cool air more particularly at this season of the year than during very cold weather. By raising the windows and tucking a folded newspaper or the corner of a blanket there under the passenger can take wise precaution against partial suffocation or overheating, either of which is dangerous to health. The storm window that is used, on three roads out of four, prevents this, owing to the close fitting work of the carpenters and joiners.